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TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

1966 SEP 24

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INFO: ADEN, AMMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD, BEIRUT, BONN FOR CINCUSAFE, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, DHAHRAN, FRANKFURT FOR LINDSEY AIR STATION; ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE, IDCA HEADQUARTERS USAREUR HEIDELBERG; KARACHI, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON, RABAT, MOGADISCIO, TAIZ, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, TRIPOLI, TUNIS, POLAD CINCSTRIKE, CINCMEAFSA, COMIDEASTFOR, DIA, CHUSM

FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: September 19, 1966

SUBJECT: Monthly Review for Saudi Arabia - August, 1966

REF :

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GROUP 3 -Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified.

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FORM 4-62 DS-323

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During August the US continued to urge the Saudis to make every effort to find a solution to the Yemen problem.

Several important agreements relating to our military sales program for Saudi Arabia were signed during August.

Further US efforts during the month to obtain both a tangible Saudi contribution to the defense of South Vietnam and a public expression of Saudi support for our policy were unavailing.

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I. FOREIGN RELATIONS

A. Saudi-UAR Relations

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Faisal, however, was somewhat more forthcoming in response to Somali requests for economic assistance. He reportedly offered to sponsor scholarships for Somali students in the US and Western Europe and has reportedly promised the Somalis a \$5 million loan.

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II. INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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Royal Saudi Air Force officers continued to express interest in purchasing additional US-made F-86 fighters in order to strengthen their ground support capabilities. (see US-Saudi Relations below).

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RELEVANT

During August Saudi security officials in the Eastern Province were reported by Consulate General Dhahran to be expressing increasing concern that subversive forces might attempt to sabotage Aramco and/or Tapline installations in an attempt to disrupt the country's economy by putting out of commission its principal source of revenue. In early August Eastern Province Amir Saud BIN JILUWI is reported to have conveyed to ARAMCO officials a warning to this effect and there were signs that Saudi police and intelligence officials have stepped up their patrols along isolated sections of pipeline.

RELEVANT

The labor situation at Aramco continued to be quiet during August. Meanwhile, the deportation of potentially subversive Arab third country nationals employed by Aramco continued.

2. Police Training. Following a request from the Ministry of Interior for assistance in the field of police training and traffic control, a two-man team from AID's Office of Public Safety visited the Kingdom August 1-23 to conduct a survey of the Saudi police establishment. At a meeting with the Ambassador and members of the team August 3, Minister of Interior Prince FAHD expressed the hope that the team could advise him on curriculum changes for the police academy, recently transferred to Riyadh and renamed the Internal Security Forces Academy. Fahd also inquired whether the US Army Corps of Engineers, currently supervising construction of military cantonments for the Saudi Armed Forces, might also design new quarters for the Academy in keeping with the proposed curriculum changes. During their stay the survey team visited police installations in Jidda, Riyadh and the Eastern Province. The members of the team performed an outstanding job in gaining the confidence of the Saudi police officers whom they contacted and their report, when finished, is expected to provide Fahd with sound advice for the improvement of his police forces.

By coincidence a separate and more limited study of Saudi police training needs was carried out during August by Professor Laurence Brown of the University of Indiana School of Police Administration. A number of Saudi students are currently studying police administration at Indiana, reportedly anticipation of their return to the Kingdom as instructors at the Internal Security Forces Academy. Professor Brown, whose visit was sponsored by the Saudi Government, inter alia recommended better preparation in English for such students prior to their departure for US schools.

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2 RELEVANT

D. Health

1. Medical School Plans. Minister of Education Hassan Al ash-Shaykh said in an interview published by al-Madina August 30 that his Ministry had received offers from universities in the US, UK and Italy to assist in the organization of a medical school in Saudi Arabia and to provide faculty members to staff it.

IRRELEVANT

III. US - SAUDI RELATIONS

A. Yemen

In a call on the King August 6 prior to his departure for annual leave, the Ambassador took the opportunity to urge again that Saudi Arabia make every attempt during the Pharaon-Khouli talks to find a solution to the Yemen problem.

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the Ambassador urged the King to remain flexible and

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(A)(3)(A)(5) to give Pharaon sufficient authority to work out an acceptable compromise. The King's reply was non-committal at the time.

B. Ambassador's Trip

On August 7 the Ambassador and an Embassy FSL driver left Dhahran in two Landrovers for a four-day trip along the Tapline road across northern Saudi Arabia, overnighing at Aramco and Tapline installations in Qaisumah, Rafha, Badanah, and Turaif. After driving on to Beirut for a short period of annual leave, the Ambassador returned to Jidda at the end of August via the north-south road through Tabuk, Taimah, and Madina. At his various stops along the way, the Ambassador not only had an opportunity to exchange views with the American employees of Tapline but also to call on several of the local Amirs and Saudi Government officials. Visits of senior American Embassy officials to these areas are relatively infrequent and the trip provided an excellent opportunity not only to "show the flag" but also to gain some current information about conditions in the northern part of the Kingdom.

C. New USMTM Commander

Brig. Gen. Ward S. RYAN, U.S. Army, assumed command of the US Military Training Mission to Saudi Arabia (USMTM) on August 25, replacing Brig. Gen. Osmund A. LEAHY who has been reassigned.

D. Military Sales Agreements

1. Mobility Modernization Agreement Signed. Negotiation of several important military sales agreements was successfully concluded in late August prior to Prince Sultan's departure for Turkey. Winding up negotiations that had gone on since May, Sultan on August 28 signed the Mobility Modernization Agreement under which the US Army Corps of Engineers will undertake to set up a balanced vehicle modernization, maintenance, and training program for the Saudi Armed Forces. Included in the \$120,000,000 estimated cost of this program will be nearly 4,000 tactical and general purpose vehicles intended to replace the miscellaneous collection of military vehicles, many obsolete or unroadworthy, now in the Saudi inventory.

2. Hawk Security Agreement Signed. Also on August 28 Prince Sultan signed an agreement prepared by the US Department of Defense covering the arrangements to be undertaken by the Saudi Government to protect the security of classified components of the Hawk anti-aircraft missiles recently purchased by the Saudis. Signature of this agreement permitted the DOD to authorize the first shipment of Hawks from the US so as to arrive by the scheduled delivery date in October.

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3. Aircraft Purchases. Negotiations between the Ministry of Defense and Lockheed Corporation for the purchase of a fourth C-130 transport plane for the RSAF ended with signature of the sales contract by Prince Sultan on August 28. The contract under which the US Department of Defense agreed to purchase the existing Saudi inventory of five C-123 aircraft and associated spares for a minimum price of \$800,000 was signed August 16. This money is to be used as the down-payment for the C-130.

Through USMTM the RSAF has been informed of the availability of eight additional F-86 aircraft for ordinary purchase; however, the US Department of Defense has declined a Saudi request that we accept 14 obsolete T-series aircraft in Saudi possession as a down-payment for the F-86's. Of the twelve F-86's transferred to Saudi ownership in May, 1965, four have now completed IRAN procedures and are being turned over to the RSAF on their return to Dhahran. The other eight are now in Portugal for IRAN and will be returned to Saudi Arabia at the rate of one or two per month through February, 1967.

4. Recoilless Rifle Request. On August 14 the Saudi Chief of Staff signed a letter of intent to purchase from US sources 55 jeep-mounted 106mm recoilless rifles for the Saudi Armed Forces. The Saudi Army has been anxious to procure these weapons in order to modernize and reinforce their anti-tank capability. Prince Sultan on August 28 asked the DCM and USMTM to do what they could to expedite their delivery.

E. Saudi Official Interest in US Space Exhibit

In recent years the Saudi public has occasionally displayed a surprising amount of interest in the US space program. USIS has found stories and items dealing with space relatively easy to place in the local press partly, perhaps, because such items are considered "non-political" by cautious Saudi newspapermen. Recently there has also been an increased expression of interest at the official level as well. The King was most appreciative of the set of photographs of Mars taken by Mariner IV and sent to him by the President. Now Minister of Defense and Aviation Prince Sultan has expressed considerable interest in the USIS traveling exhibit on the Gemini program, including the scale replica of the Gemini capsule. After seeing it in his office, the Prince requested that arrangements be made to show the capsule to as many members of the Saudi Armed Forces as possible. This is now being done and the capsule has been exhibited to Saudi military personnel in Jidda and Taif. In September it will be taken to Medina and Tabuk as well. Saudi military have universally expressed interest in the exhibit and many of their questions indicate they have done some homework on the US space program.

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F. Vietnam

Acting on Departmental instructions, the DCM saw Deputy Foreign Minister Saqqaf August 10 and handed him an aide-memoire reviewing the essential points of US policy in Vietnam together with a factual presentation of the current political and military situation in Southeast Asia. He also urged that the Saudi Government take a public position in support of the US effort in Vietnam.

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A public Saudi expression of support for South Vietnam seems unlikely to be forthcoming, at least for the time being, in view of the Saudi commitment to a policy of "non-alignment".

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